

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY AA/SA:RHNOOTER:MEF

APPROVED BY AA/SA:RHNOOTER

SA/IR:WTEMPLETON (DRAFT)

A/AID:D PARKER

NEA/ARN:D KORN

S/S:WHLUERS

GC:CGLADSON

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O 051704Z SEP 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN NIACT

S E C R E T STATE 194438

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, US, JO

SUBJECT: BUDGET SUPPORT PAYMENTS FOR JORDAN

FOR AMBASSADOR PICKERING FROM R.H. NOOTER

REFERENCE: AMMAN 5037

1. I HAVE DISCUSSED CONTENTS OF REFTEL WITH DAN PARKER WHO IS OF COURSE VERY SYMPATHETIC WITH JORDANIAN PROBLEM AND COMPLETELY SUPPORTIVE OF U.S. DESIRE TO BE RESPONSIVE TO JORDANIAN NEEDS. HOWEVER, AUTHORIZATION BILL PROGRESS HAS BEEN SLOW AND PASSAGE NOT LIKELY UNTIL OCTOBER OR LATER. PROCEDURE WHICH WOULD BE REQUIRED TO MAKE ADDITIONAL FUNDS AVAILABLE IN THIS QUARTER WOULD ONLY BE FEASIBLE IN EXTREME AND DIRE EMERGENCY AND IN FACT HAS NEVER BEEN USED SINCE QUARTERLY LIMITATION WAS IMPOSED SEVERAL YEARS AGO. IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO HAVE EXTREMELY COMPELLING ECONOMIC CASE TO TAKE TO CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES IN ORDER TO INVOKE THIS

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PROCEDURE.

2. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT JORDAN CASE SIMPLY IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY URGENT TO MEET THIS CRITERION. WHILE JORDANIANS MAY HAVE SOME INTERNAL PROBLEMS REARRANGING FUNDS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS AND/OR CENTRAL BANK, FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION IS EXTREMELY COMFORTABLE AND ADDITION OF DOLS 10 MILLION CANNOT BE PRESENTED AS MATTER OF URGENT CONCERN.

3. IN ADDITION, ONCE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES ENGAGE IN SCRUTINY OF JORDAN PROGRAM WITH THE INTENSITY THAT CAN BE EXPECTED TO RESULT FROM THIS REQUEST, IT COULD CONCEIVABLY JEOPARDIZE FY 1975 APPROPRIATION LEVEL. SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE HAS BEGUN TO QUESTION VALIDITY OF JORDAN AID LEVEL OVER PAST TWO YEARS WITH INCREASING INTENSITY, AND THIS PROCEDURE WOULD ADD ONE ADDITIONAL REVIEW WHICH WOULD NOT OTHERWISE BE INVOLVED.

4. IF THERE IS A VALID ECONOMIC CASE OF WHICH WE ARE NOT AWARE, WE WOULD OF COURSE BE GLAD TO REVIEW THE BIDDING. HOWEVER, JORDANIAN PLEAS THAT FUNDS CANNOT BE BORROWED FROM CENTRAL BANK (AS THEY HAVE FREQUENTLY IN THE PAST) WOULD NOT BE CONVINCING TO CONGRESS WHICH RECOGNIZES THAT U.S. SUPPORT IS SIMPLY A TRANSFER OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

5. SUGGEST THAT YOU POINT OUT TO JORDANIANS THAT IN OUR OPINION THEIR INTERESTS WILL BE BEST SERVED IN THE LONG RUN IF WE DO NOT PUSH CONGRESS AT THIS TIME BUT WAIT FOR NORMAL APPROPRIATION PROCESS TO RUN ITS COURSE (WE WILL OF COURSE HAVE ADDITIONAL QUARTERLY ALLOTMENT AVAILABLE SHORTLY AFTER OCTOBER 1, BUT FULL YEAR APPROPRIATION WILL PROBABLY NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL DECEMBER).

6. WE WILL SEND SEPARATE CABLE ON DAN PARKER'S TRAVEL SCHEDULE AFTER THIS HAS BEEN STAFFED OUT. KISSINGER

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